

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: SUMMARY OF 54TH MEETING, DECEMBER
17, 1976

1. SUMMARY: FIFTH COMMITTEE AT 54TH MEETING DECEMBER 17, 1976, CONTINUED ITS DISCUSSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM. IT APPROVED ADDITIONAL SURVIVOR AND DISABILITY BENEFITS AND EXTENDED CREDITABLE SERVICE TO 32YEARS. ALSO INCREASED MEMBERSHIP OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE, CLARIFIED THE REDUCTION FACTOR FOR THOSE WITH LESS THAN 25 YEARS OF SERVICE, AND RECEIVED FURTHER AMENDMENTS FROM THE FLOOR. END SUMMARY.
2. USYG DAVIDSON READ TO FIFTH COMMITTEE A TELEGRAM AND A TEXT OF A STATEMENT SENT TO SYG FROM THE INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS. THIS GROUP INDICATED ITS OPPOSITION TO A DOUBLE PENSION SYSTEM, COULD NOT ACCEPT THE ACTIONS OF THE ACABQ, AND STATED IT WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY LABOR ACTIONS SHOULD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FAIL TO ACT.
3. PAKISTAN SUPPORTED THE CURRENT WAPA-CPI SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH THE PRESENT PROGRAM FAILS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NATIONAL

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SYSTEMS OF TAXATION; BENEFICIARIES SHOULD NOT BE ADVANTAGED NOR DISADVANTAGED BY THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY HAD SERVED NOR THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY RETIRED. BRAZIL, SUPPORTING THE ACABQ REPORT, URGED POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION AS ALL THE ACTUARIAL DATA OF THE FUND IS NOT YET BALANCED. BELGIUM REQUESTED THAT THE PENSION FUND

SECRETARIAT PREPARE A REPORT REVIEWING PENSIONS FOR LOW SALARIED PERSONNEL; RECOMMENDED SIMPLE TEXT BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FOR ADJUSTMENTS; OPPOSED EXTENDING MAXIMUM CREDITABLE SERVICE IF DONE FOR PERSONNEL BEYOND AGE 60. US, SUPPORTING ACABQ REPORT, FAVORED POSTPONEMENT, AS CAUTION WAS NEEDED BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANY NEW RECOMMENDATIONS; SUPPORTED INCREASE OF MEMBERSHIP OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE. UKRAINIAN SSR, IN AGREEING THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD POSTPONE DECISION THIS SESSION, SOUGHT AN IN-DEPTH ACTUARIAL STUDY OF THE FUND AND A NUMERICAL BREAKDOWN OF ITS ELEMENTS. ALGERIA, CHARACTERIZING THE TELEGRAM AND TEXT SENT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AS BLACKMAIL, RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF ONLY TWO RECOMMENDATIONS THIS SESSION: THOSE PERTAINING TO INCREASING CREDITABLE SERVICE AND TO IMPROVING SURVIVOR AND DISABILITY BENEFITS; AND URGED DEFERMENT OF OTHER QUESTIONS. FRANCE AND BELGIUM URGED CONSIDERATION OF AN ADDITIONAL TEXT ON PENSIONS; BELGIUM HAD ARRANGED WITH THE SECRETARIAT THAT ONE BE PREPARED.

4. COMMITTEE VOTED ON ARTICLE 20, ANNEX VII OF JOINT PENSION BOARD REPORT (A/31/9) PERTAINING TO THE EXPANSION OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE FROM SIX TO NINE MEMBERS. APPROVAL WAS GIVEN BY CONSENSUS.

5. VOTE FOLLOWED ON PARAGRAPH 29B(I) OF SAME DOCUMENT PERTAINING TO THE EXTENSION OF CREDITABLE SERVICE TO 32 YEARS. RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY USSR WAS 72 IN FAVOR (PAKISTAN, NICARAGUA, URUGUAY, UPPER VOLTA, ITALY)-11 AGAINST (US, FRG) WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS.

6. PARAGRAPH 30B WHICH CLARIFIED THE REDUCTION FACTOR FOR THOSE WITH LESS THAN 25 YEARS OF SERVICE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE
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BY CONSENSUS.

7. VOTE REQUESTED BY US ON PARAGRAPH 34C, IMPROVEMENTS IN DISABILITY BENEFITS WAS 68 IN FAVOR (TOGO, NEPAL, ITALY, LESOTHO, ISRAEL)-12 AGAINST (US, UK, USSR, UKRAINIAN SSR, QATAR)-4 ABSTENTIONS (NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN).

8. PARAGRAPH 34D, ALSO PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENT IN DISABILITY BENEFITS, WAS ACCEPTED BY CONSENSUS.

9. THE VOTE REQUESTED BY US ON PARAGRAPH 35D, PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE FROM 300 TO 500 DOLLARS IN THE SURVIVOR AND DISABILITY BENEFITS, WAS 82 IN FAVOR (UPPER VOLTA, LESOTHO, NEPAL, INDONESIA, ITALY, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, USSR, UKRAINIAN SSR)-

1 AGAINST (US) - 5 ABSTENTIONS (NETHERLANDS, JAPAN, ISRAEL).

10. IN AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE, JAPAN EXPLAINED

ITS ABSTENTIONS, SAYING IT SUPPORTED THE ACABQ IN THAT NO
PIECEMEAL ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED
EXTENSION OF CREDITABLE SERVICE HAD AGE 60 BEEN THE
CUT-OFF.

11. UK, ON BEHALF OF US AND FRG, SUBMITTED FROM THE FLOOR AN
AMENDMENT TO REPLACE A/C.5/31/L.41 REFERRING TO PENSION
ADJUSTMENTS. FINAL VERSION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS READ
AS FOLLOWS: "DECIDES THAT ONE OF THE GUIDELINES FOR
THE FUTURE DELIBERATIONS OF THE BOARD SHOULD BE THAT THE PRINCIPLE
OF COMINSATING BY WHATEVER MEANS FOR COUNTRY TO COUNTRY
DIFFERENCES IN COST OF LIVING SHOULD BE GIVEN LIMITED RECOGNITION
FALLING SHORT OF EQUALITY OF PURCHASING POWER SO THAT A NEW SCHEME
DOES NOT
INCREASE THE PRESENT OR FUTURE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES
OF MEMBER STATES".

12. ON VOTE ON A/C5/31/L.44 AS AMENDED (COMBINED RESOLUTION
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ON PENSION SYSTEM) REQUESTED BY USSR WAS 79(US, UPPER
VOLTA, ITALY, ISRAEL, PAKISTAN, UK, CAMEROON, UAE)-
0 AGAINST-12 ABSTENTIONS.

13. CUBA INTRODUCED ITS DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/C.5/31/L.38)
ON INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF ITS BELIEF THAT AN
INCREASING AMOUNT OF INVESTMENTS OF THE FUND IN
MULTINATIONAL FIRMS FUNDS CONTRARY TO THE OBJECTIVES AND
PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ALGERIA
WISHED AN ACCOUNTING OF THE MONIES WHICH THE FUND HAD
LOST IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. EGYPT WOULD HAVE LIKED THE
SECRETARY GENERAL TO HAVE FURNISHED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
INVESTMENTS IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.

14. NICRARGUA READ A LENGTHY AMENDMENT TO CUBAN DRAFT WHICH IS TO
BE DISCUSSED AT 55TH MEETING OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE.
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